

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-67 were rejected. Claims 1-67 remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Claim Rejections under Doctrine of Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected claims 1-67 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-18, 29-45, 52-65, and 71-88 of U.S. Patent No. 6,963,670 (the '670 patent). Although Applicant does not necessarily agree that the present claims 1-67 are obvious over claims 1-18, 29-45, 52-65, and 71-88 of the '670 patent, the Applicants are willing to file a terminal disclaimer to place the pending claims in condition for allowance. Such a terminal disclaimer is enclosed with the present response and, because the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is the only outstanding rejection of the pending claims, the pending claims are believed to be allowable upon entry of the enclosed terminal disclaimer.

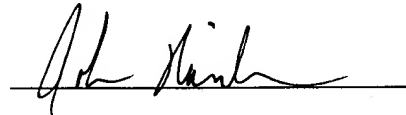
Conclusion

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicant hereby provides a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request thereof. In addition, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fee of \$130.00 for the enclosed terminal disclaimer, and any additional fees which may be required, to Deposit Account No. 07-0845; Order No. 15-GS-6147 (GEMS:0171/YOD/RAR).

In view of the remarks set forth above and the enclosed terminal disclaimer, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 11, 2006

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Rariden", is written over a horizontal line.

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